

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/553,424, filed April 19, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application 60/130,238, filed April 20, 1999. This application is also related to U.S. provisional application 60/075,715 filed February 24, 1998; copending U.S. patent application number 09/513,486, filed February 25, 2000; 2000, entitled ~~“Protein Separation Via Multidimensional Electrophoresis,”~~ and having attorney docket number 020444-000200US; copending U.S. patent application number 09/513,395, filed February 25, 2000; 2000, entitled ~~“Methods for Protein Sequencing,”~~ and having attorney docket number 020444-000300US; copending U.S. application number 09/513,907, filed February, 25, 2000; 2000, entitled ~~“Polypeptide Fingerprinting Methods and Bioinformatics Database System,”~~ and having attorney docket number 020444-000100US; copending U.S. patent application number _____, filed number 09/551,937, filed April 19, 2000; 2000, entitled ~~“Labeling of Protein Samples,”~~ and having attorney docket number 020444-000500US; and copending PCT application _____, filed application PCT/US01/10504, filed April 19, 2000 2000, entitled ~~“Polypeptide Fingerprinting Methods, Metabolic Profiling, and Bioinformatics Database,”~~ and having attorney docket number 020444-000600PC. All of these applications are incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes.